

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 213

By Dixon

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Vicki Palmer on her remarkable business career.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as business and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Vicki Palmer, who will be the keynote speaker at the 2003 Alumni Luncheon of the Fogelman College of Business Administration of the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Palmer currently serves as the Senior Vice President, Treasurer and Special Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer of Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., the world's largest bottler of soft drink products of The Coca-Cola Company, operating in 46 states in the United States, all ten provinces in Canada and five countries in the European Union, with total revenues of approximately \$16 billion; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to hard work, Vicki Palmer helped to raise her two younger brothers and to take care of her chronically ill mother while growing up, all the while maintaining exemplary grades in school; and

WHEREAS, graduating from Memphis South Side High School as the Valedictorian, Ms. Palmer received a Bachelor's Degree in economics and business administration at Rhodes College and earned her Master's of Business Administration from the University of Memphis; she maintains strong ties with both her alma maters, serving on the Board of Trustees of Rhodes College and having received the Distinguished Alumna Award for Achievement from the University of Memphis Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Palmer began her business career in Memphis as a Corporate Loan Officer with First Tennessee Bank, N.A.; two years later, she was hired by the Federal Express Corporation where, over five years, she held numerous financial positions, serving as Manager of Corporate Finance at the time of her departure; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Ms. Palmer joined The Coca-Cola Company as Manager of Pension Investments, in which position she was responsible for the company's worldwide pension assets; and

WHEREAS, at the inception of Coca-Cola Enterprises, Vicki Palmer served as Assistant Treasurer; in 1992, she was elected Corporate Vice President; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Palmer's responsibilities include management of the company's \$12 billion multicurrency debt portfolio, its \$2.5 billion pension plan and 401(k) plan investments, currency management, global cash management and commercial and investment banking relationships; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Vicki Palmer oversees corporate affairs, assists in establishing the strategic direction of the company's organizational development effort, and serves as a member of the company's Management Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Palmer is an active member of Cascade United Methodist Church, the Board of Directors of First Tennessee National Corporation, the Board of Directors of Havertys Furniture, the Board of Trustees of Spelman College, the Board of Governors for Woodward Academy, The Links, Inc. and The Executive Leadership Council; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Palmer received the 1999 Women Mean Business Award from Business & Professional Women USA and was named one of the Top 50 Blacks in Corporate America by *Black Enterprise Magazine*; an Outstanding Georgia Citizen by Georgia's Secretary of State in 2000; and to the compilation of "Georgia's Most Powerful Women" by *Women Looking Ahead* news magazine in 2001 and 2002; and

WHEREAS, further honored for her outstanding achievements, in 1999, Ms. Palmer was an inaugural inductee into the Memphis City Schools Hall of Fame; in the winter of 2000, she delivered the Commencement Address to the graduating class of the University of Memphis; and in 2002, she was inducted into the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers and received the Bridge Builder Award from the Rainbow Coalition; and

WHEREAS, Vicki Palmer epitomizes the spirit and commitment to family that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Palmer is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, John E. Palmer, and her daughter, Alexandria; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Vicki Palmer for her dedication to excellence and integrity in the world of business and in her community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Vicki Palmer on her remarkable business career, particularly noting her commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.